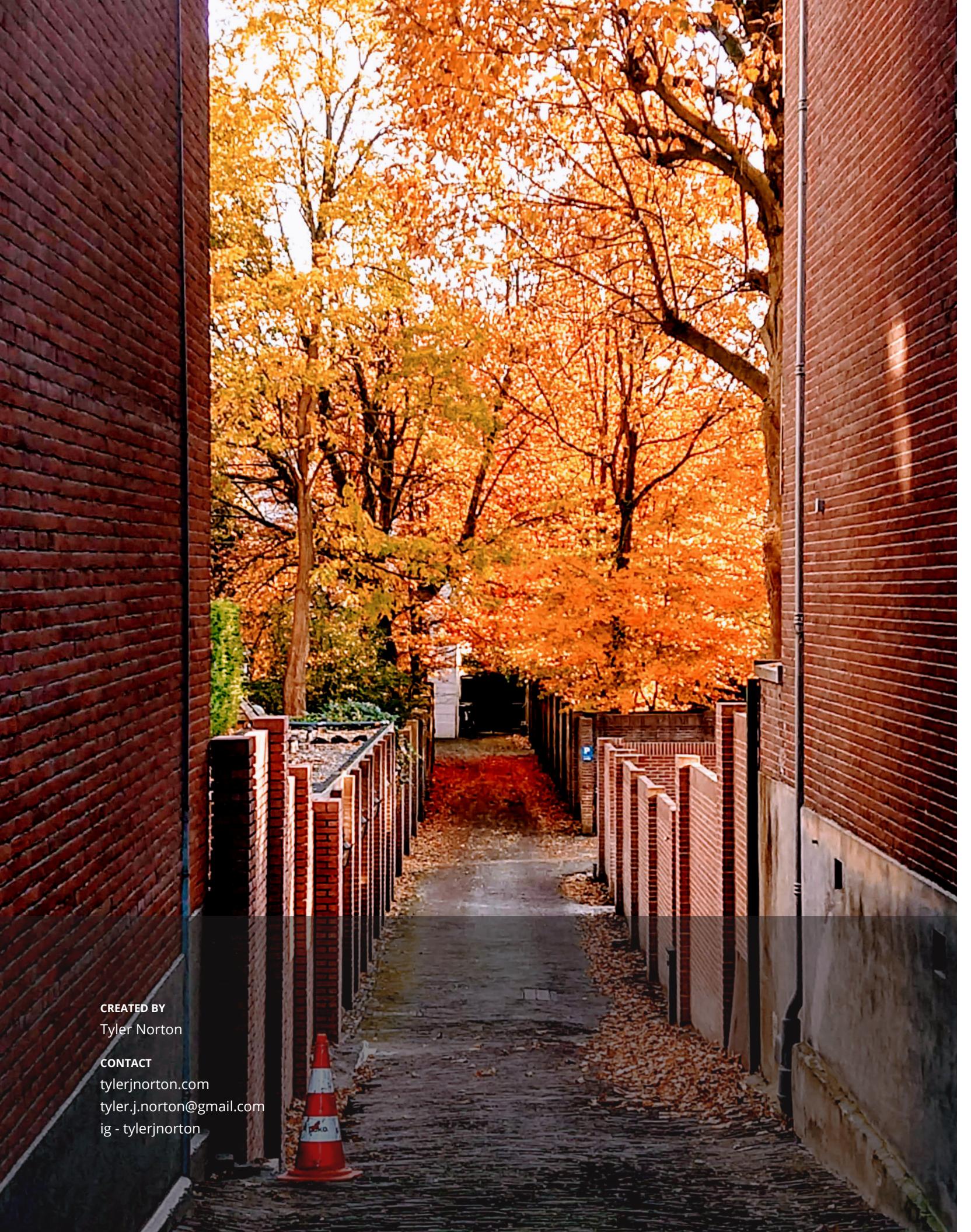


**MUNICH
INNSBRUCK
ROME
BELGRADE
LYON
VIENNA
FLORENCE
HELSINKI
MADRID
PARIS
HAMBURG
SEVILLE
& MORE**



TRAVELING BOSTONIAN

SELF-PUBLISHED - 2020



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What is this?

In Short: Memories

Over the past two years I have been working remotely as a creative director for a data analytics company. Since I had no attachments (within reason) and the ability to live anywhere, I went to Europe and traveled through many different countries, cities, parks, art galleries, and much more. Most of the places you see here are places I explored over the past two years. However I have been fortunate to have some incredible other vacations, backpacking experiences, friends, and more around the world.

Some of those may have slipped in here too.

Anyone can and should travel until they find exactly what they are looking for.

Enjoy.

Tyler

Where to?

**6****France***Lyon & Paris*

Three months in Lyon and a few different weeks and weekends in Paris. Art, local sports, food, and sightseeing with friends.

14**Rotterdam***The Gem of The Netherlands*

A weekend guide to one of the most beautiful and modern cities in Europe. From 2019 with Marc and Fraz and from 2010 by myself.

16**Spain***Champions League Nights*

Multiple weeks in Spain following Liverpool football club around. Seville, Madrid, and a weekend trip to Toledo with a lot of good friends.

38**Scotland***Cities to Highlands*

Eight days spent in Edinburgh and taking day trips to the highlands, St. Andrew's, national parks, and to a few old castles.

42**Austria***Innsbruck & Vienna*

A weekend in the alps and a few months in a true hidden gem of a city in Vienna. Both trips happened in 2019.

46**Italy***Rome, Florence, & Venice*

From 2010 to 2019 I have visited many Italian cities with a variety of friends and family. Among them are Milan, Rome, Florence, and Venice.

20**The Balkans***Montenegro & Serbia*

I spent three months in the Balkans in the summer of 2019 in Montenegro and the fall in Serbia. Local beaches, cheap eats, and incredible views.

26**Norway & Estonia***From Tallinn to the Arctic*

Living in Tallinn for a few months let me travel to a bunch of Nordic countries and explore Estonia. I also finally got to experience a Christmas Market!

34**Germany***Hamburg & Munich*

Once again I followed the mighty Reds to Munich and met a friend in Hamburg for a long weekend. Beautiful cities and even more beautiful beer, meat, and gravy.

50**The Azores***Beautiful Sao Miguel*

I spent a week in this volcanic paradise in 2016. It has everything from overgrown jungle, to waterfalls, to ocean side and mid mountain natural hot springs.

54**Ireland***Golfing the Links*

After a couple weeks in 2011 working at a cafe in Donegal and a week of golfing with seven other guys I can definitely say the green hills and links courses are worth the visit.

58**Lisbon***Thanksgiving Aborad*

My best friend Cris and I spent our Thanksgiving in this ocean side city testing out new food, sightseeing, museum hunting, and of course drinking.



Lyon

*Three months in southern
France's food capital*

Lyon is a wonderful, vibrant, mid sized city in central France. It was the first place in years that I lived away from home and it was great thanks to me finding some amazing groups of friends.

The Liverpool supporters at The Wallace were extremely welcoming and made me feel right at home. They even had their own verse of Allez Allez Allez.

*We watch them at the Wallace
Up on the mezzanine
Because we are supporters
Of the greatest football team
Allez Allez Allez*

Outside of that, Lyon is a totally walk able city and has a great subway system. I used it the most to get to and from the Lyon Social Football meet ups at Gare de Vaise where I met with a lovely group of guys and girls from all over the world to play football (and I found a pick up basketball game there as well). They were a great group who didn't seem to mind that I wasn't very good at soccer since I had barely played in my life.

Cured meat, strong cheese, and runs along the river were the other ways I filled my time. I even had my own personal cheese challenger who worked at a cheese shop and would bring me "challenging" cheese to try.



Paris

I'll never forget how my first week in Paris came to be. I had been help exchanging my way around Europe with my new friend Rachel. We planned to go to Switzerland for another helpx, but scheduling was mixed up and we found ourselves with one more night in Venice and no destination or place to stay in 24 hours. I still remember looking at her and saying that this wasn't sad, it was awesome. We have 6 days to spend anywhere we want! So where do you want to go? 30 minutes later we had flights and hotels booked for Paris in the morning.

That being said, when you book Ryanair, you should check when and where the flight goes. This "Paris" airport was about 90 minutes north of Paris, and since the flight arrived at about 11pm local time we were left waiting a bit for a shuttle to the city center. We also found two Canadian girls who were just out of high school and who arrived with no real plan. They were going to sleep in the airport, so we invited them with us and told them that we had a hotel room that was pretty cheap. If they couldn't book their own room there they could at least sleep on the floor of ours so they were safe.

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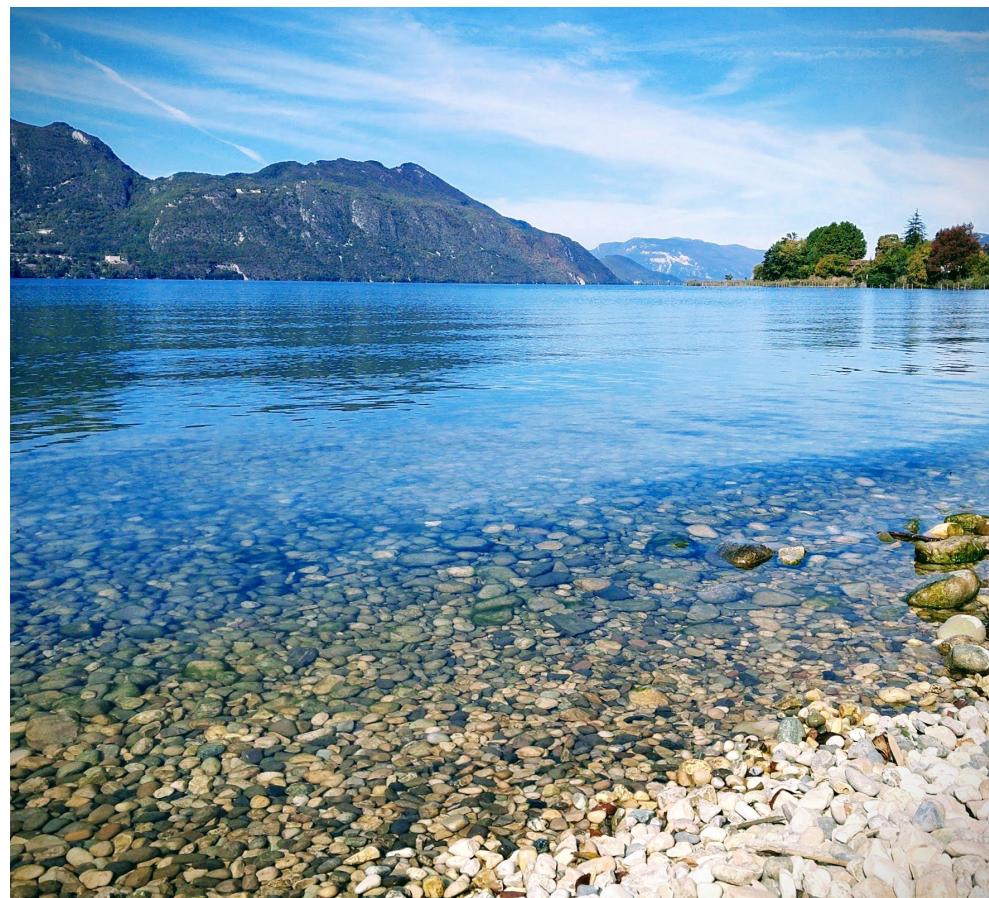
Above: Only Lyon sign at the Garden of le Musée des Confluences.

Right: A view of Lac du Bourget on the edge of the French Alps.

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When we arrived around 1:45am, the metro was no longer running. So the four of us piled into a taxi and set off for the hotel. Rachel was from rural Oklahoma and had never taken a taxi before and assumed they were all over \$100. I think they total came to about \$6 each when we split it 4 ways.

As cliche as it may seem, the best part of Paris is the lawn in the shadow of the Eiffel



Songs That Bring Me Back...

Many songs highlighted in this side section will have meaningful connections to my time spent in certain places. Unfortunately, this is not one of them. I was just really into The Wombats during my runs and this song reminds me of Lyon.

The Wombats Black Flamingo



Tower. There are always people picnicking, playing, and just generally being happy. It is a wonderful place to spend the afternoon as long as you can resist the opportunity to buy key chains and homemade bracelets from borderline homeless people.



Best Culture Spot

Centre Pompidou is the best modern art museum in the world. Interactive, entertaining, installations. Every trip is more interesting than the last.

Another favorite of mine was the Centre Pompidou. I love modern art and this place was

the best I've ever been. The building itself is a masterpiece. I would highly recommend visiting even if you aren't interested because of the walk through installations they have. It is truly a great experience.

We stayed at Mary's Hotel in the 11th arr. It was nothing spectacular, but they let me sit in the lobby and use the wifi (this was 2010, wifi was harder to come by) to watch the Celtics playoff game at 3am so they are a-ok in my book. If you need a budget place, I'd recommend it. The neighborhood was safe and it was really convenient to the metro as well and had a nice market out in front of it on the weekend.

Left: Eiffel tower - Paris France
Top: Musée du quai Branly - Paris, France
Next Page: Vineyards in Chambéry, France

I wrote on facebook about staying up and watching the Celtics and one of my friends replied that they would be in Paris tomorrow, so we spent the day sightseeing. It was great to have a taste of back home after a few months on the road.

Years later, I returned with Marc and Fraz to explore the city and hit up the museums. I won't go into all the details but I'm quite sure Paris legends are still passed around about Fraz's capacity to eat crepes.

Chambéry, France

I met Alex in Lyon and we decided to rent a car together and drive out to the French countryside to go wine tasting. It was beautiful and as far as wine goes relatively tasty. The best part was definitely driving up and down the mountains and along the lake and just seeing the incredible views.

La Cave Du Prieuré let us have a private tasting inside their little cave of a tasting room and the host was quite good even though there was not a ton of English common ground. I got by enough in French to have a great time.

If you want a great day of driving, try to find one specific dish and stop at a random place and ask for a recommendation about a place, for a recommendation about a place, for a recommendation about a place. Right Alex?





Rotterdam

A week out with the lads!

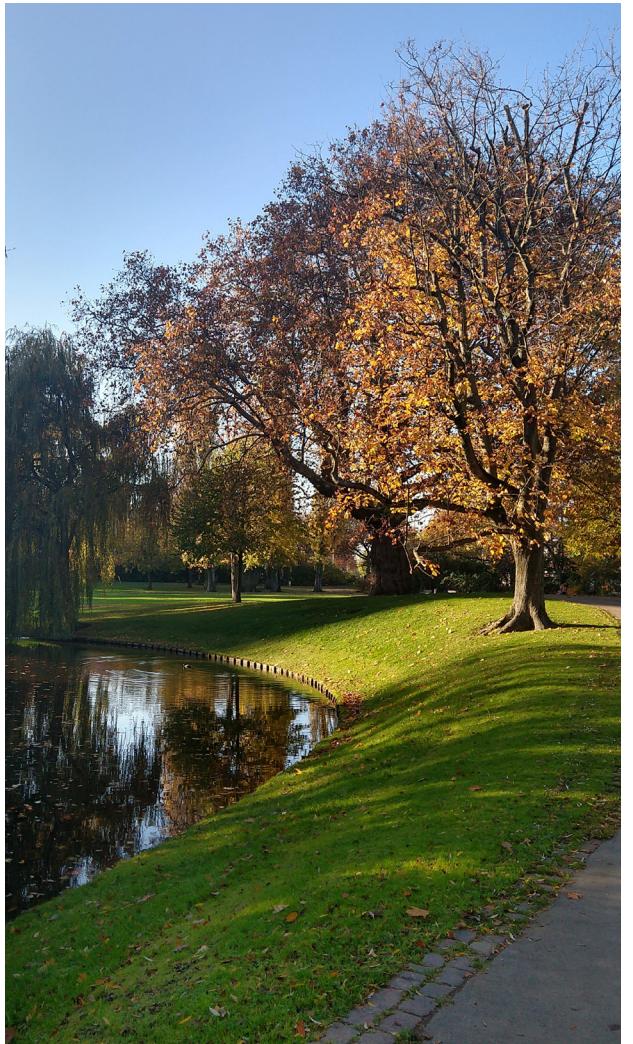
At the end of 2018's travels, a few English friends and I stayed in Rotterdam for a week's vacation before I headed back to the states. We stayed at Weena, right next to the train station and really close to everything else the city has to offer.

Our first night was a few quiet drinks at Bierlokaal Locus Publicus. It is an awesome little brew house with great beers from the area as well as some traditional local snacks to keep you going through the night. Perfect atmosphere inside as well for dimly lit intimate surroundings. Everyone speaks English so well that one of my friends asked "where are you from" expecting a city in England and the response was "from here".

We hit all the normal touristy things and ate at the Markthal downtown, saw the cube homes, and took a trip up the Euromast. All highly recommended but also well covered by other



*Far Left: View from the top of Euromast
Left: Het Park in the shadow of Euromast
Above: Markthal in Rotterdam*



travel publications. I'd rather talk about the all chicken themed place we stopped for dinner and drinks called Scharrels en Schuim. A narrow bar/restaurant with full wall windows, a great menu of both beer and chicken, and an upstairs with live music a few nights a week (usually jazz).

It wasn't all late night eats though, we got up for some waffles from a shockingly good vegan place called Backyard. It was probably the best waffle I've ever had, not that I'm an expert. We also took the tram to the other side of the river for a tour of Stadion Feyenoord. Sadly, Dirk Kuyt was not there. Pair that with a few 30 minute train rides for the big days and nights in Amsterdam and you've got quite the nice time in the Netherlands.

Madrid

A week in Madrid, a night at the Bernabeu

In November of 2014 five friends and I (The Lads and Trac, as they're known) took five days in Madrid around the Real Madrid vs Liverpool match in the group stage of the champions league.

The match was about what was expected. Madrid 1-0 LFC. The stadium was incredible and the home supporters were rowdy. This was truly one of my football bucket list experiences. The Spanish supporters were quite friendly to us through our entire night there. The post match party was at an Irish Pub called Dubliners that was full of happy English people in spite of the result.



Best Food Spot

Lizarran. Listen, I know it's a chain and the food is only slightly above average, but they were extremely welcoming to us and even let us control the clicker to watch football. I'm doing it.

This was mostly a football vacation with a dusting of culture sprinkled in. Most of that culture consisted of eating and drinking (a lot). We got a little culture in Toledo after our Madrid days, but if in Madrid and looking to go have a good time, hit the bars on Calle Cava de San Miguel. I will also say that not speaking a lick of Spanish is a bit of an obstacle even though Madrid is a massive city. If you aren't in a specifically English speaking part (read: touristy), then you're likely going to have to go Spanish for your interactions. Still, great culture, great city, great fun.

Top: Hunter, Me, MarcO, and Nath sharing sidra at a tiny wine bar on Plaza de Cascorro

Right: Santa Iglesia Catedral Primada de Toledo



Toledo Weekend

After the excitement from the football died down and a few of the UK friends went back home, four of us packed up and took a detour to Toledo, Spain, a small town about an hour north of Madrid. The town is a great cozy historic spot to have some fun and see some neat old Spanish history. We stayed at a spectacular modern Airbnb while we were there.

We only had one day and two nights in Toledo, but the town is not that large so we still had time to walk most of it and see what there was to see. What we did not get to sadly was the famous military museum there which is supposed to be outstanding according to other places that have reviewed it. Instead we spent our day taking the Toledo Train Tour (note: not really a train). That took us through a lot of the historic spots in the city as well as across the river protecting the city to see it in its entirety. The tour took about 90 minutes and we felt like we had covered most of what was in Toledo.

That night we walked around the neatly lit small streets around our Airbnb and had a nice meal and a few drinks. It was a low key trip, but still a great ending to the overall Madrid vacation.

Seville

A week in southern Spain with the boys
and Liverpool in the Champions League

This was a bit of an odd trip that really had two sides to it. The original intent was to go see a Sevilla vs Liverpool champions league match. To make a long story short, we never ended up having tickets to the match. The long version is only interesting if you care about European football, hooligans, ticket touting, and more. I'll leave that for another time and get to the good stuff.

Anyway, there were five of us (two Americans and three English) that stayed from a Saturday to Thursday at an airbnb just behind Alameda de Hercules. That was a perfect spot for us. Between us and the river there was basically an endless array of tapas bars, shops, and Spanish culture. As with any Spanish city the game plan for tourists/sightseeing has to be "sleep in, sight see, early afternoon lunch, siesta, late dinner". Everything basically shuts down between 3:30pm and 7:30pm at the least. Get used to napping and staying out late!

One of our favorite spots that we continually went back to was (as far as we could tell) the only bar serving Sidra (Spanish Cider) in Seville. La alacena de san eloy was such a home spot for us that on our final night we were walking up the street towards it and the owner/bartender spotted us, held his hand in the air (5) and brought us out cinco sidra with a smile. They were very kind to us there and I would without question suggest anyone heading there to go have a sip or two of Sidra. At 1 Euro each, it really can't be beat.



We ate some pretty great food while we were there as well, but the one that stood out the most was Mesón el Serranito. It took us a day or two to find this little area of tapas places but this was the best area for food we found by far. The food was incredible and as with most of the places in Seville, you sit outside and enjoy the beautiful weather.



Best Drink Spot

La alacena de san eloy was our favorite place to have a stop for a little glass of sidra...or five. "Cinco mas" was the phrase of the week for a reason.

Overall, Seville is just a really beautiful city. I would recommend NOT renting a car. Parking it is both near impossible and very expensive. Try to avoid it if at all feasible. Walk everywhere and try out as much of the local cuisine as you can. I'd also recommend knowing a little Spanish. While some places have English speakers or even menus, the authentic spots are all in Spanish. Seville has everything from craft beer places, to sports pubs, to tapas bars, to upscale dining and cocktail spots. It was an outstanding and fun 4 days and nights for us.

Left: Las Setas De Sevilla

Middle: A small cafe called Las Teresas on a quiet side street in Seville



Montenegro

Bay of Kotor

A week in the most beautiful place in Montenegro

The Bay of Kotor is an extremely beautiful place located just south of Croatia on the Adriatic sea. Kotor itself is a small town located at the innermost point of the bay. The entire vibe of the town depends on if the massive cruise ship is in the port (its packed) or if it is gone (its quiet-ish).

I stayed for a week in the neighboring town of Dobrota at a lovely little airbnb with a balcony with an outstanding view. One of my favorite parts is that no matter where you are you can walk down to the water and walk along the tiny road to Kotor and stop anywhere and just hop in to swim or stop at one of the amazing little places to eat right on the bay. Prices are very cheap by Euro-standards as well.

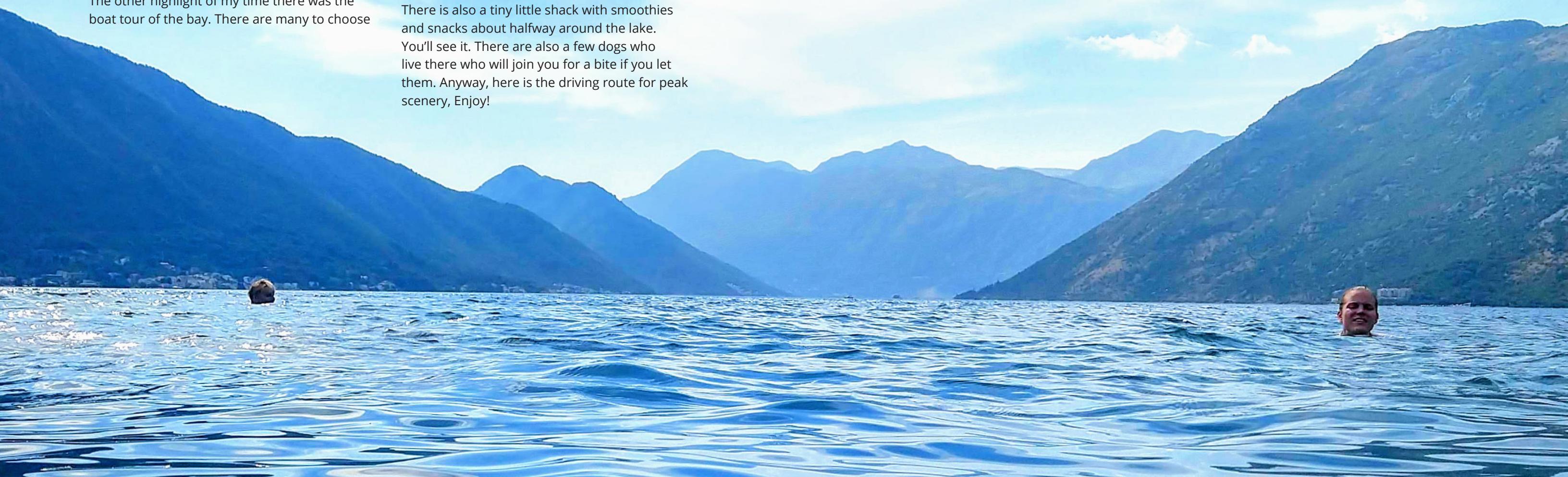
The other highlight of my time there was the boat tour of the bay. There are many to choose

from and I presume most go to similar places, but make sure to go see the blue caves. They are seaside caves with crystal clear water that you can swim in. It is truly a spectacular experience.

Another great place in Montenegro is Lake Skadar. The lake itself isn't such a wonderful place to make camp, but the drive on the road that surrounds it is beautiful.

There is a tiny village named Rijeka Crnojevića that has a nice place to eat right along the river. They had a good breakfast and its a nice place to stop for a while especially if its hot out and you need a bit of breeze and shade. Since it's in the valley between a few mountains, it gets plenty of both.

There is also a tiny little shack with smoothies and snacks about halfway around the lake. You'll see it. There are also a few dogs who live there who will join you for a bite if you let them. Anyway, here is the driving route for peak scenery, Enjoy!



Bar

I spent 2 months in Bar living in an airbnb about 5 minutes walk from the beach. It was a relaxing summer destination and definitely a change of pace from the city life I had been living in for years. While Bar gets lively along the beach at night, there is definitely something to be said for how quiet it is. The Old Town (fortress and road) are both cute destinations and the Old Olive Tree (well over 2000 years old) is worth seeing. But most of the action is in the surrounding seaside town of Budva (the nightlife destination of Montenegro).

One thing is for sure, there is no beating the sunsets in Bar. The food is not very diverse but there is good Italian food everywhere since its just across the sea. The mountains just off the coast make for an amazing scenic backdrop to everyday life as well. I would recommend renting a car and going to see places like Lake Skadar, Bay of Kotor, and Dobra Voda.

Bar. Good for a few days, not enough to do for a long term stay unless you are truly ready to relax and take in the sea.

Belgrade

Personally, I was just excited to get back to a big city after a few months in a quiet beach town. Finally there were tons of people, basketball games, pubs, and a modern art museum.

My favorite areas of the city are Ada Island, The Fortress, and The Bohemian district. There are some amazing places to eat, far too many to name but I would definitely single out Toro and Sofa down by the river. They are right on the water

Best Food Spot

One particular favorite was Toro on the banks of the Sava. With fois gras ravioli, roast duck, Spanish croquettes, chicken empanadas, and much much more it was easily the best food in Belgrade.

and some of the most eclectic menus in town. After dinner you can easily head across the river for post-dinner activities.



Just across the river was the Museum of Contemporary Art (and a bank of bars, clubs, and places to eat on the water). I went for a day and saw some of the craziest art installations I have even seen. It is a great day out and I'd suggest following it with a drink on a hammock dangling over the river at Hot Mess.

Ada Ciganlija is also a fantastic place to spend a day. It was my main spot for playing basketball and has a ton of other fun things to do like floating obstacle courses, bars, beach chairs with service, and more.

*Below: Delicious treats at Trpković Bakery in Belgrade, Serbia.
Right: Lake Skadar, Montenegro.*



TROMSØ





Tromsø

"Enjoy a magical experience under the light of the moon and look for the green shimmer of the Northern Lights on a ride guided by a professional musher."

...is how the tour was pitched to me by the description on the website. They did not fall short of that lofty expectation in reality either. Out in the Norwegian wilderness, in the snow, at night, was one of my favorite days and nights that I have ever spent abroad.

Everything from the puppy play time to the Sandefjordsmør served in the warm lodge afterwards was simply perfect.

The highlight was the 40 minutes we spent wandering through endless double dog houses making friends with those pups who would later be pulling us through the rolling hills.

Left: Ishavskatedralen in Tromsø, Norway

Tallinn

CHRISTMAS MARKET





Tallinn & Helsinki

Tallinn was one of those cities where I could legitimately move to and be happy living there. Old town is so beautiful and there are so many pubs and medieval places to explore that it is just a seemingly never ending maze of happiness. Outside of old town it is a modern city with a ton of tech innovation.

A few great spots to hang out around town for locals and tourists alike are Patkuli viewing platform, St. John's Church, Kadriorg Park, and of course Tallinna raekoda (the main square and home of the Christmas Market).

The Christmas Market was one of my favorite things I have ever done. Constant Christmas music, stands full of stockings, chocolates, ornaments, and other Christmas items, as well as traditional food and drink like hot wine and black pudding pack the town square. It was truly one of the most magical places I have ever been and I spent every day I could down there for the week that it overlapped with my stay.

One weekend day I took a ferry from Tallinn to Helsinki with my Estonian/Hungarian/Scottish friend Monika to explore the city. We didn't spend a lot of time there but I did have a few notes



to get out. First off, wow is it expensive! I know the Nordic countries have that reputation but it was well more than double the prices in Tallinn.

We ended up hitting a pub for some drinks and apps to relax for a while while it rained and then headed to a few art galleries. Maybe the best thing about the pub was how dog friendly it was. Not that the food and drinks weren't great, but there was literally a wall with pictures of all the dogs that had visited them. It was amazing and there were a few to play with in there with us too.

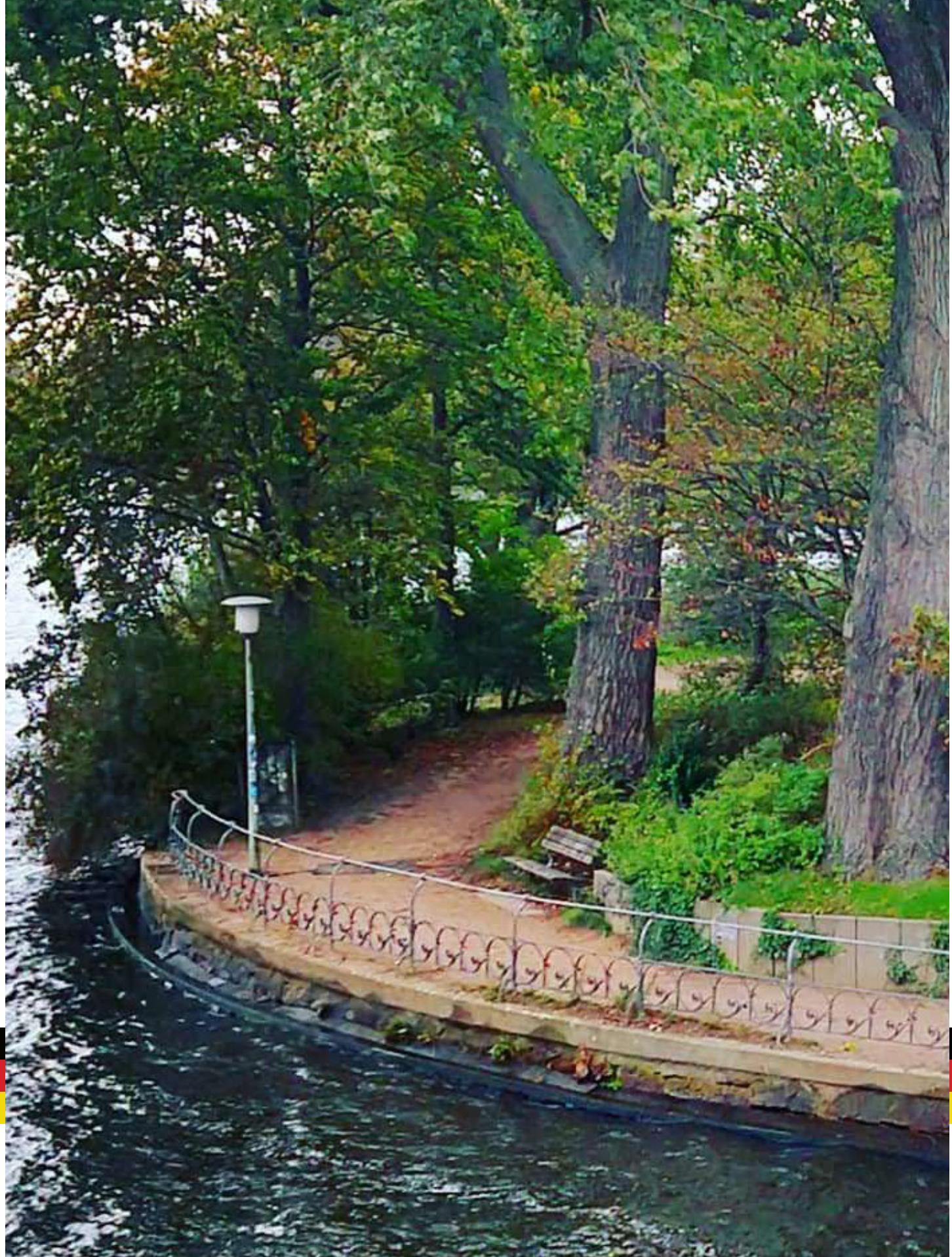
We headed to a tiny art gallery that is called Helsinki Contemporary and another that was very small that I honestly can't remember the name of (sorry) and the main event... Helsinki Design Museum! I absolutely loved that place. It had snake, innovations, and even Princess Leia's necklace!

Left: Art in a Helsinki gallery
Center: Tallinn, Estonia

Songs That Bring Me Back...

When Blink dropped a new album while I was abroad I started listening instantly. As my UK friend and travel buddy said "It's no California". But Darkside definitely reminds me of Estonia, as does the rest of Nine.

Blink 182
Darkside



Deutschland

Hamburg

My friend Andrea had extended an offer for me to visit her in Hamburg, Germany. I had a long weekend while I was over in Europe so I took her up on it. While she was working the first few days I had a bunch of long walks around the city. Mostly doing a few laps around Aussen Alster.

There are honestly too many outstanding food places to name in Hamburg. I don't think I had a single bad meal the entire time I was there. I will say a special shout out to Cheesecake Heaven — Der Käsekuchenladen for the incredible dessert and to Restaurant Im Sprinkenhof for

the incredible schnitzel and mash.

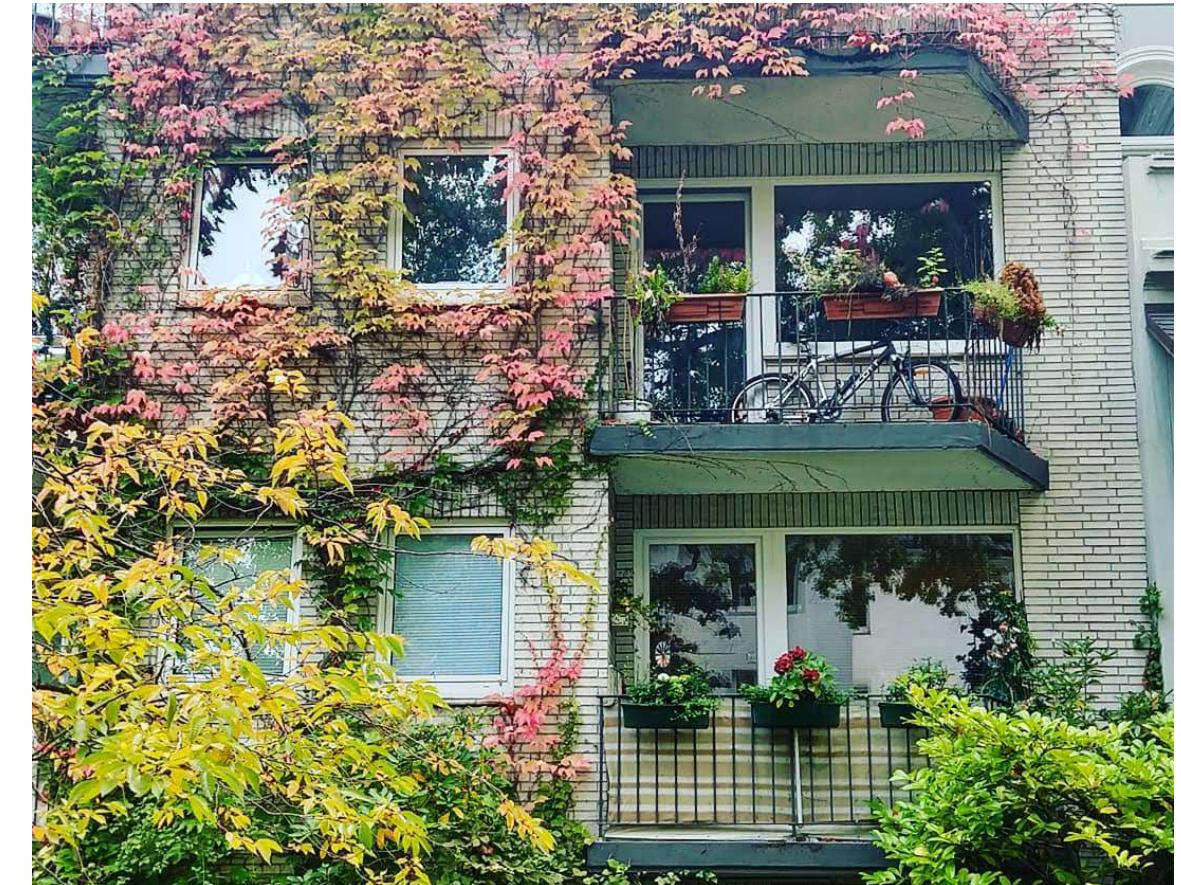
We visited a couple of awesome tourist spots like Photohaus, Rathaus, and Elbphilharmonie for some great views and sight seeing.

Munich

I'm sure I did not get the normal Munich experience, but I was here for a week with my buddy Hunter to see Liverpool smash Bayern on their way to #6. Mission accomplished. There were a lot of bars, beer halls, meat, pretzels, and fun nights. Here are a few spots which were worth visiting if you're

interested in that sort of thing: Marienplatz, Hofbräuhaus, Ned Kelly's Australian Bar (for the footy), Augustiner Klosterwirt, and Hans Im Gluk. But the best place we went was the first night (pictured on the right) called Nuernberger Bratwurst Gloeckl am Dom. My God was it incredible, like German Thanksgiving.

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Previous page: Two pictures of Aussen Alster in Hamburg, Germany. Right: A big platter of meat at Nuernberger Bratwurst Gloeckl am Dom. Below Left: The view from Andrea's terrace. Below center and right: Pictures from wandering around Hamburg.
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Songs That Bring Me Back...

The Liverpool FC anthem could be used for many destinations I've been to in the past. The only LFC specific trip in the last few years was with Hunter to Munich to watch the Reds prevail 3-1 vs Bayern on their way to European glory.

You'll Never Walk Alone

Scotland

Cairngorns National Park



Our one day drive took us 6 hours in a loop (with some photo stops) from Edinburgh around Cairngorns National Park and back. There was no specific destination in the park, we just wanted to do a scenic drive through the highlands.

We drove up the A9 and down the A939 Old Military Road. It was spectacular. Starting out on a sunny day in Edinburgh, then drove through some rain around Perth, then some snow in the mountains of the national park. This drive had a bit of everything and it all made for some incredible photos and fun scenic driving.

Normally I wouldn't write about a lunch stop on a day trip, but this was one of the friendliest and cutest places in our whole Scotland trip. The Wee Puffin is a small little cafe/restaurant in Grantown-on-Spey. The food was outstanding, the interior is filled with little puffin paintings and drawings that are (for the most part) for sale, and the owner was extremely friendly and helpful and even gave us a tip on a hidden scenic point on the way back. I had the haggis burger and would suggest you do too. There is no better place than the Scottish highlands to enjoy one and this place made it to perfection.

Our one day drive took us 2-3 hours each way (with photo pit stops) from Edinburgh to Inveraray Castle. Inveraray Castle is the home of the Campbell Clan of Scotland. It is open seasonally, so be careful not to go during the winter or early spring. Loch Lomond and the surrounding areas are open all the time and have many different tourist attractions in the area.

Our main goal was to get the castle. We took the less direct route to get there so we could avoid the motorways and take the more scenic A and B roads. I would recommend this, but past a certain point, you will be taking A roads anyway and the views are really in the mandatory part of the drive anyway. So you won't be missing much if you just follow the navigation's shortest route.

While the castle is beautiful, the real attraction is the drive. The roads wind through, up, down, and around the mountains of the national park and the views are incredible. I would recommend pulling over and taking short walks off the roads if you spot something in the distance. We found some of the best views and hidden things like the scene pictured last page as well as some wildlife just off the beaten path. Bring your hiking boots though, the ground is often wet and squishy. A change of socks and potentially shoes too is needed if you stray too far.

Inveraray Castle

The town Inveraray is small with a few cafes, pubs, and bed and breakfasts to go with a small residential area and the castle itself. The location right on the water of one of the many lochs in that region makes for outstanding views of water, mountains, and forests.

I mentioned in the previous section that the castle is seasonal. We found that out the hard way even though it is not listed as such on the website. Luckily, we could still walk all around the castle and explore the area. We got a few good photos, but unfortunately could not go inside.

If you go get to the castle when it is closed, be sure to keep walking all the way around the castle. There are closed gates, but you can walk around and get up close to the castle if you keep walking. There are also nice views of a few bridges and a nice walk around the castle grounds.

Edinburgh

We arrived in Edinburgh after a 4 hour drive on a Monday morning from Liverpool. The drive was pretty beautiful and relatively flat but the views were great. The small villages that you drive through on the A7 are pretty neat. Every little town you go through will have at least a spot for tea if not a full on pub. There were a lot of little bed and breakfasts around as well and if you're not into city life it would be a great spot to stay that is accessible to everything but still full of beautiful countryside scenery.

We stayed in a wonderful Airbnb and would highly recommend this neighborhood. It was the perfect location for walking and hitting all of the different neighborhoods and most of the big attractions are no more than a 30-45 minute walk away, with many being much closer than that.

Some of the cliche tourist spots are still pretty incredible. Places like Arthur's Seat are a must see, even if it may be a little crowded at the top. The views across the entire city are well worth the trek and the company. You'll want to do this on the most clear day you can because the views are really the main attraction. Prepare yourself for extreme winds (60+mph) when you are at some points towards the top as well. I thought it was fun, but I could see it being dangerous for someone smaller. The hike is very short and very easy, but the views are wonderful.

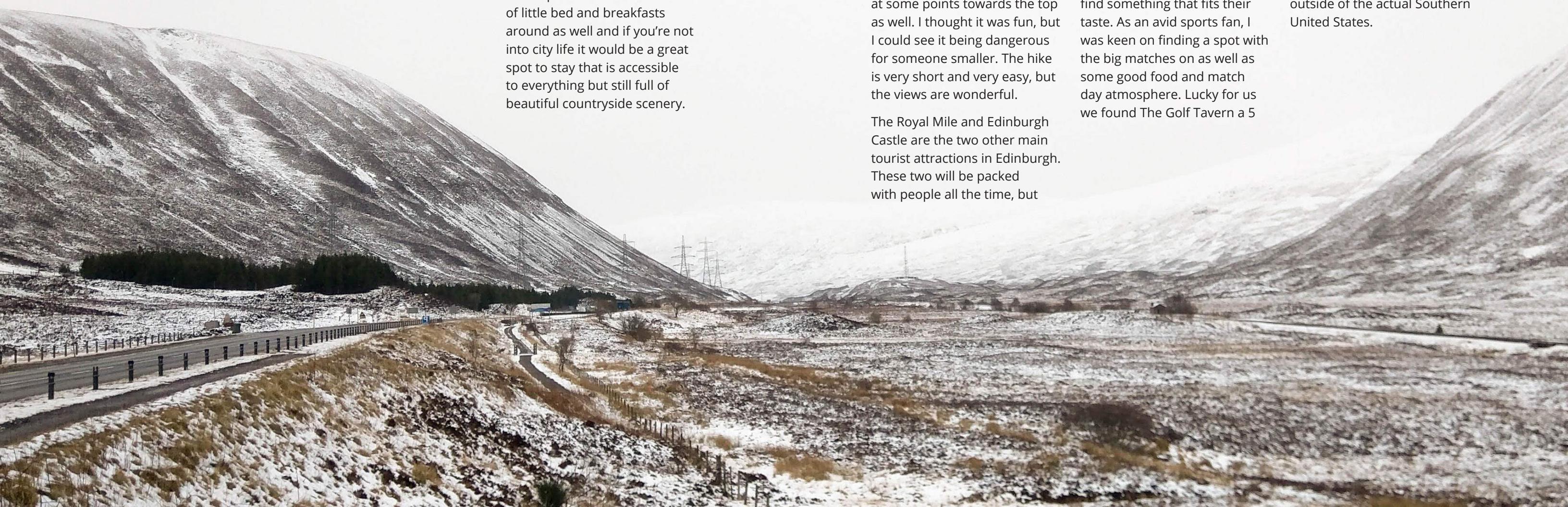
The Royal Mile and Edinburgh Castle are the two other main tourist attractions in Edinburgh. These two will be packed with people all the time, but

are still a neat look into the history of the city. The castle is filled with walk-in museums that tell the history of the castle and Scotland's military. If you are looking for more history about the city itself (and not the military), I would recommend the Mercat Historic Underground Tour (£13 for adults). No need for a sunny day on that one either because a lot of the tour is underground in the city's historic vaults. The tour guides are very knowledgeable and tell some fascinating stories.

The food in Edinburgh was better than expected. I will admit, I am a meat and potatoes kind of guy, but there was plenty of food from all over the world for anyone to find something that fits their taste. As an avid sports fan, I was keen on finding a spot with the big matches on as well as some good food and match day atmosphere. Lucky for us we found The Golf Tavern a 5

minute walk from where we stayed. We ate and drank there on the first night and the last night of our trip. The traditional Scottish "Haggis, Tatties, and Mashed Neeps" were excellent.

There are more options than just the local cuisine in Edinburgh though. We found some amazing Korean, Italian, Wine Bars, and Whiskey bars as well. The Hanging Bat was probably our best food spot of the city. The mix of southern USA BBQ and craft beer was right up our alley. Their very helpful and knowledgeable staff was more than welcoming and helped us in finding some interesting drinks too. I would highly, highly recommend the BBQ chicken wings. They were quite possibly the best I've had outside of the actual Southern United States.



Österreich

(Austria)

Vienna is an amazing place with a very lively and diverse population. I lived near Prater park when I was there and there were a few things that really stood out about Vienna. First, it is a very active city. Tons of people doing tons of things in the massive public parks all around. Second, the public transportation system is reliable, cheap, and fast. Maybe the best I have seen in Europe, although many cities have a leg up on Boston in that regard. Lastly, it is English speaking enough where it wasn't a major hurdle to be able to meet people or go out as it is in other European cities.

A couple of places that stood out for me were The Red Loin (Liverpool Supporters Pub), Blumenwiese, Prater Park (yes, it has fun rides too, not just a field to play in), The Brickmakers, and anywhere along the Danube.

There are some lovely places just out of the city as well like Weinhof Zimmerman and Höflein Banhof (for swimming in the Danube!)

Vienna also has quite a few great museums to see. As always, the modern art one won the day (MUMOK) for me. But there really is something for everyone with history museums, modern art, and normal galleries.





A Weekend In Innsbruck

I had to pop into the Schengen area to start the clock again and wanted to see the mountains. I found what was one of my favorite destinations that I have ever been to in Innsbruck, Austria.

This lovely little town is nestled into the mountains and it is a lively and beautiful city with a university in it. The views down every street are spectacular and the bright blue river running through it is just perfect. In fact, everything just looks perfect there. Plus the best of Austrian, German, and Italian foods.

The highlight of the trip was taking the lift to the top of the mountains (a 20 minute ride) where you could see a spectacular view of the town and the mountains. It was maybe one of my favorite places I have ever been.

Previous page: Prater Park in Vienna, Austria

Above: The view from the top of a mountains next to Innsbruck

Right: Maria-Theresien-Straße in Innsbruck, Austria



Songs That Bring Me Back...

It is easy to lyrically make the connection between this new Saves The Day anthem and travel. But for whatever reason, it seems to remind me of wandering around Prater park and watching baseball in Austria.

Such A Beautiful World Saves The Day

Milan

This will be a short one because sadly, I don't remember a lot of Milan. We were there for 3 days and we saw a few things. The main shopping square (with Louis Vuitton, Gucci, Prada, and McDonalds at the 4 corners), the Milano Duomo, and of course an Alkaline Trio concert at Magazzini Generali. We stayed at a hostel just inside the main loop road. Milan is a very modern city. Much more so than the other Italian cities in terms of tech structure and architecture. I'm sure you can make your way to the shopping centers and churches and do a better job finding things than I did in my 3 rainy days there.



Venice

Venice is the most beautiful city I have even been, period. There are no cars. There is less noise. The food is incredible. If I spoke a lick of Italian then I would be living there as we speak.

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Best Food Spot

When I returned in 2019 to Italy my parents and I ate at a tiny place off the beaten path named **Trattoria Al Ponte Del Megio** that I would highly recommend for both food and atmosphere.

• • • • • • • • • • • •

Venice is a maze of sidewalks and piazzas. Even a map won't help most times since GPS isn't

quite precise enough on the island. Pick landmarks and work your way around. I would highly recommend taking as many wrong turns as you possibly can and getting lost on the most beautiful little streets you can.

Find a small place to eat, not a populated area. I still remem-

ber my first taste of speck (an Italian meat that is adjacent to prosciutto). It was at a tiny little place where no one spoke English. Our lovely server came over and broken Italian/Englished her way through the menu. It was an outstanding experience and the best food.



Left: A quiet sidewalk street in Venice, Italy

Above: The bright houses on the island of Burano

There are however a few "American" places too. I really needed a taste of home one day while I was there. While the employees didn't speak any English and all of the food was Italian food, this place had a TV playing sports (very rare), and AC/DC's greatest hits on in the background. It was as close to home as it was going to get in Venice, but it did the job. Unfortunately, I was alone and lost when I happened upon this place and I couldn't find my way back and I don't know what it was called. If I had to guess, it was the west part of the island.

Murano & Burano

The two best little islands off of Venice are the glass blowing capitol of the world, Murano, and a small little residential island called Burano.

Murano is almost exclusively glass blowing factories, some of them you are allowed to walk right in to. Plenty of them have tours, demos, or people working in their shop where they sell their work. If you have time, watching someone shape a little figure out of a ball of hot glass is kind of amazing. There are tons of artists working around and plenty of small galleries to explore for free or a very small fee.

There are also a lot of mask shops. Venice is famous for its carnival festival that they hold annually and the traditional masks are great. There are usually stores all over the place selling all kinds of local handmade masks.

Burano is another great place to spend a relaxing day. You can make your way around the entire island in under a few hours and the houses on the island are the main feature. Every house is brightly painted and the streets are made up of canals and parks. It is a definite must if you are into relaxing walks around beautiful places.



Florence

First of all, a huge thank you to my sister's friend Michelle for letting me stay on her couch for the weekend. She was studying abroad at the time and took time to include me in stuff and help me get by knowing literally no Italian. Unfortunately, at the time (2010) I did not make a habit of writing about my experiences. So this is far far after the fact, but I do still remember a few things.

Florence is very walkable and I would highly recommend just getting lost on the streets and figuring out what neat things you can find. I'd also recommend going across the river to

The Boboli Gardens, a big maze of vegetation on a steep hill.

When you get to the top you get an awesome view of Florence and the Tuscan countryside.

Climbing to the top of the Duomo is another definite to do. The views are spectacular from the catwalk at the top and it is the highest point in Florence. Lastly, find yourself some gelato. It is delicious. The further off the beaten path the better.

Rome

I went to Rome twice during my European trip in 2010 and again in 2019. The first trip was the first time I met Rachel Reed. As

a fellow American on tour, we hit it off and hung out all over the continent for a while. The first few days we stayed at Tiber Village. A small campground/hostel-ish thing a bit out of the city. It was a huge pain in the butt but very cheap. The second time we stayed at a hostel near the city center called The Yellow. That was a far better experience and location.

We did all of the usual tourist stuff, the forum, colosseum, Vatican, pantheon, etc. But one of the funnier stories was when we were walking in one of the many piazzas for lunch one day we heard a person playing guitar. They were playing the song Kids by MGMT. So we knew the song,

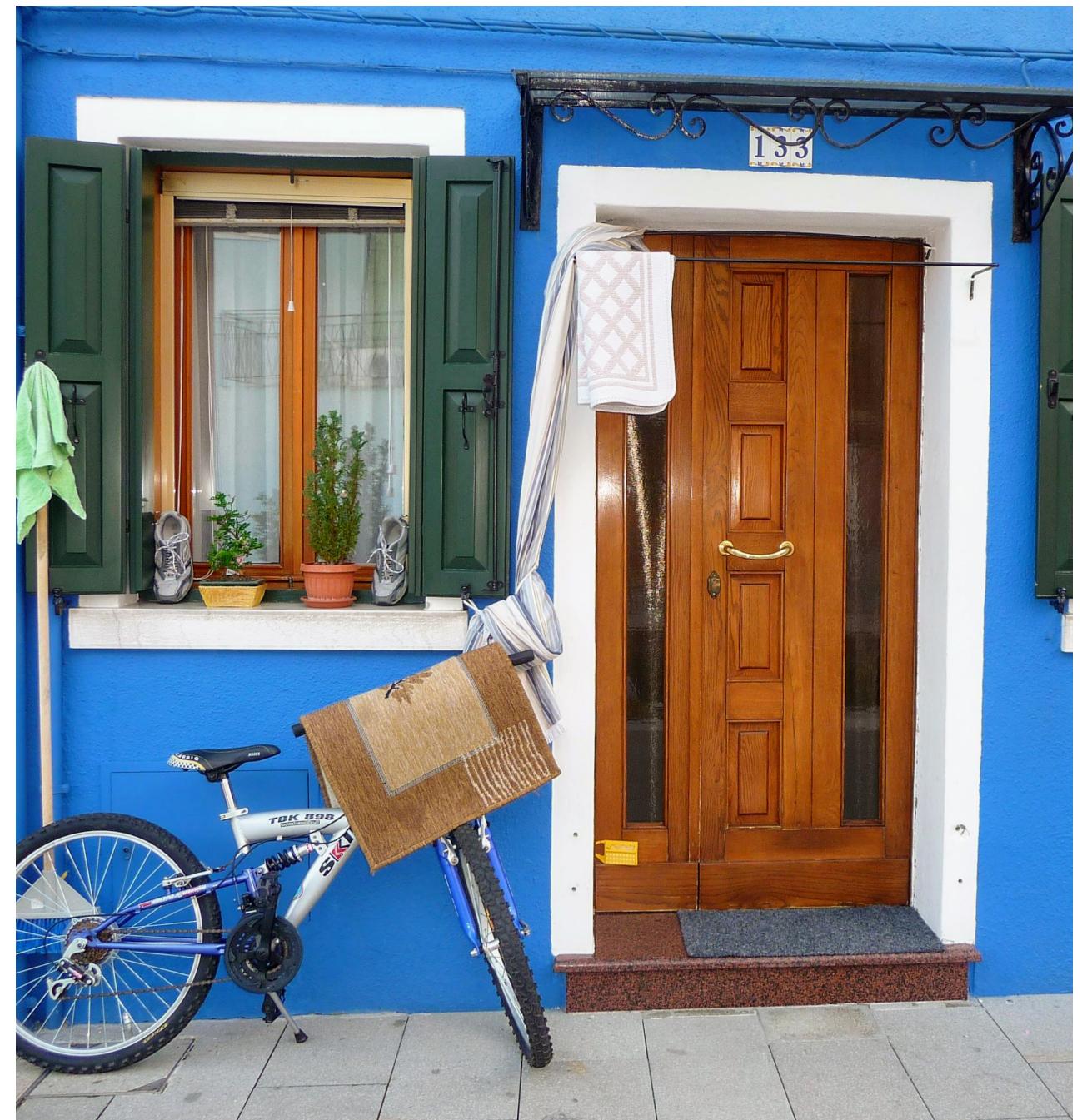
stuck around, and listened until he was finished. Then to our amazement, he handed the guitar back to the street performer and went and sat to

Left: The view from the top of the Duomo in Florence, Italy

Below: Bright homes in Burano, Italy

eat lunch at a table! We walked up to him and asked what that was about and he told us that they are on vacation as well and he tells people he is in MGMT and asks to play a song for fun. The guys were hilarious and awesome and it was a really good rendition of Kids too.

Rome, like all of Italy, is a great time with some incredible food. Rome is very touristy though. For the English speaking only crowd it is great, but for the people who want a real Italian experience I would recommend somewhere a lot further from Rome.



The background image shows a panoramic view of a volcanic landscape, likely the Azores. In the foreground, there are green, rolling hills covered in sparse vegetation and small farm plots. A dense forest of tall evergreen trees runs across one of the ridges. In the middle ground, more hills and mountains are visible, some with snow-capped peaks in the distance. The sky is filled with large, white, billowing clouds, with bright sunlight breaking through in several places, creating a dramatic and colorful effect.

AZORES

Sao Miguel

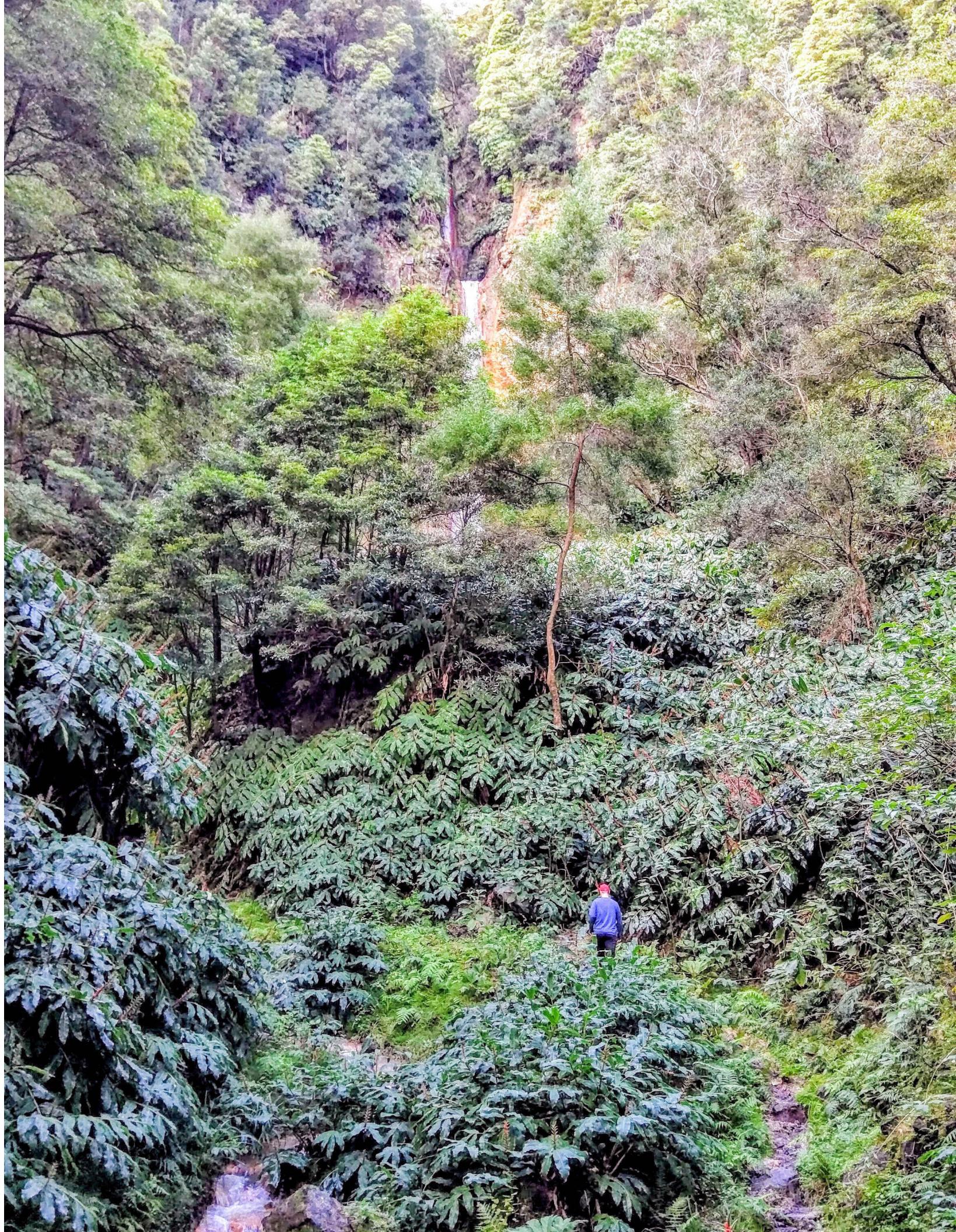
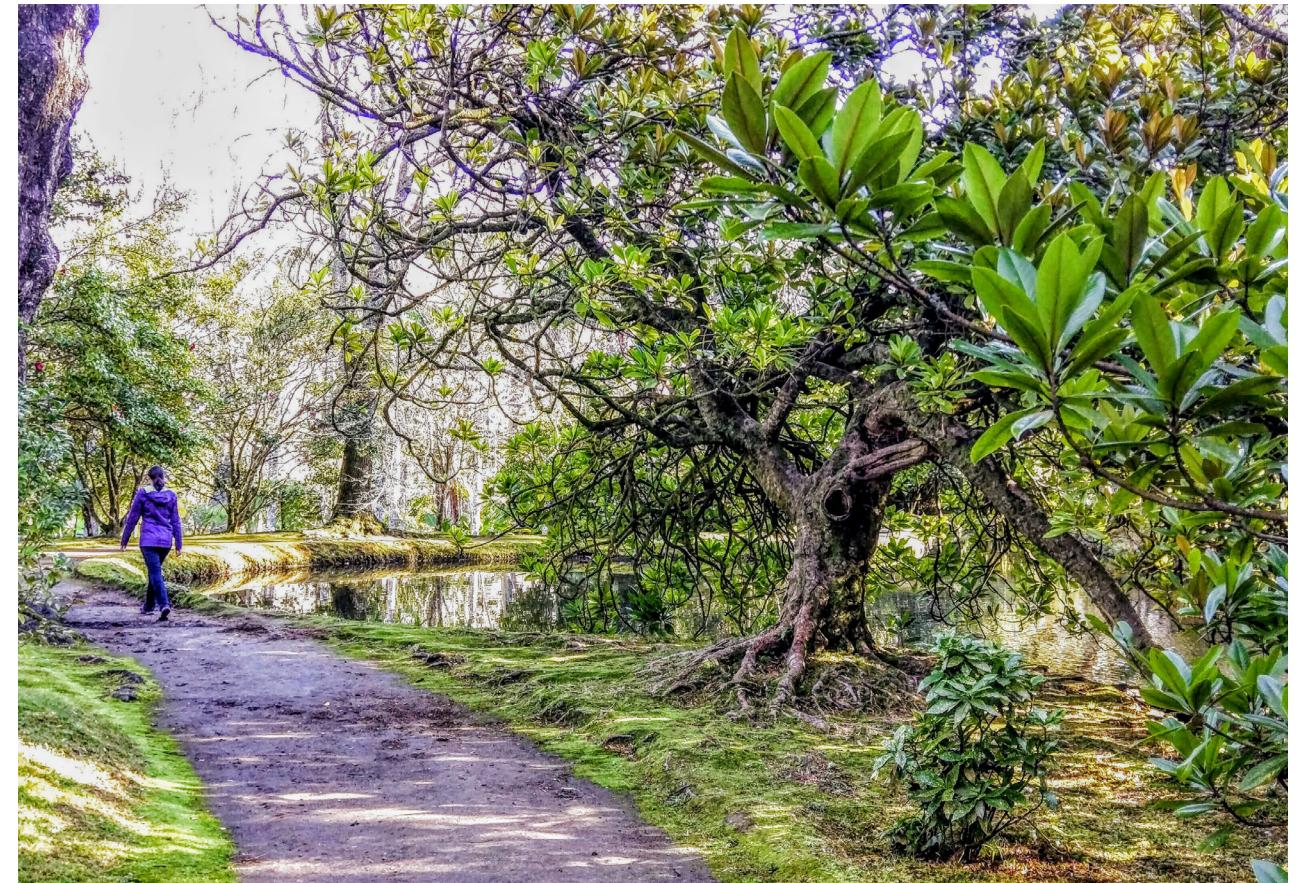
I got to Sao Miguel by googling "cheap flights from Boston to Europe". In steps SETA airlines for a very cheap and short flight. While it isn't mainland Europe, it is its own unique adventure island. I would highly recommend spending 4-5 days exploring. Sao Miguel is the main island of the Azores and it is filled with hikes, small towns, hot springs, and adventures.

Right: Casa Invertida in Furnas

Far Right: My hiking to a waterfall in Ribeira Quente

Bottom: Walking through the gardens at Parque Terra Nostra in Furnas

Previous page: View from the top of the hill at Capelas.



Ireland

For eight days in August we took four "young boys" (Me and three friends) and four "old fellas" (My Dad and his three friends) and made our way through the western half of Ireland's golf courses. We rented a great airbnb together, a few SUVs, threw our clubs in the back and hit the links. We played rounds at Louge Erne's Faldo Course, Donegal Golf Club, Enniscrone, Co. Sligo Golf Club, and Bundoran. All five of the courses we played were outstanding.

On our non golf days we hung out in the tiny town we were staying in called Pettigo. Pettigo is right on the border of Ireland and Northern Ireland, so much so that our airbnb host's property was a bit in each. We also loved the local hotel/pub The Pettigo Inn. The cheesy garlic bread and the toasties were the favorites, as well as enjoying a few pints while listening to a live music duo play. They even snuck in a little Sweet Caroline for the gang from New England.



Outside of Pettigo, we spent the day working our way from pub to pub in Donegal. While it is not a big city, Donegal is a beautiful little town set on a river with traditional old pubs and a quaint little town square to explore. Between our day in Donegal, and our time spent around our airbnb recovering from the golf days, we didn't do much outside of golfing. That doesn't mean we didn't have plenty of fun.



Left: Riding a moped through the back streets of Pettigo, Ireland

Above: An Irish duo playing a set at the Pettigo Inn

Songs That Bring Me Back...

The little Irish duo pictured here didn't know that we were all from Boston, or that Sweet Caroline was a local anthem. They just broke out into a lovely rendition and we all sang along with the "bum bum bum"s and the "so good"s.

*Sweet Caroline
Neil Diamond*

The Golf

All of our rounds of golf were really fun. Outside of one downpour day we had great luck with weather as well. I would highly recommend anyone unfamiliar with links style courses check out Enniscrone. It was challenging and far different from any course I had ever played in America. There are some photos from the rounds we played that week on the next page, along with some details of my first trip to Ireland 6 years previously.



Co. Donegal

Donegal was my first traveling experience by myself. It was both terrifying and wonderful. I stayed with Gaja, who had a spare bedroom and who needed a little graphic design work for her newly opened cafe in Downings. It was a

neat little cafe with woodwork everywhere. They had bought what was previously a bar and turned the front room into a cafe. The back of the house was a massive pile of old bar items that needed clearing out. So one day me and my new

friends Jaric and Darren cleared out all of the junk and privately reopened the pub!

*Top Left: Teeing off at Enniscrone
Below and Bottom Left: My Dad golfing at County Sligo Golf Club*



Dunfanaghy

This is the tiny town where I stayed while with Gaja. A few houses, a beach, a golf course, a church, and a pub is about all there is there. It was the perfect place to break away from everywhere I had ever lived. It was quiet. Oddly enough, one of the

only things I really remember specifically about these few days is driving around with Jarek listening to a sampler CD he had that had Young Folks on it well before it made it big in the states. This song will always remind me of Ireland.

The one downside of this place is the drive to get here. I took a bus to arrive from Belfast that was just under 6 hours, and when I left for Cork the bus took about 13 hours. Be ready to drive!

LISBOA

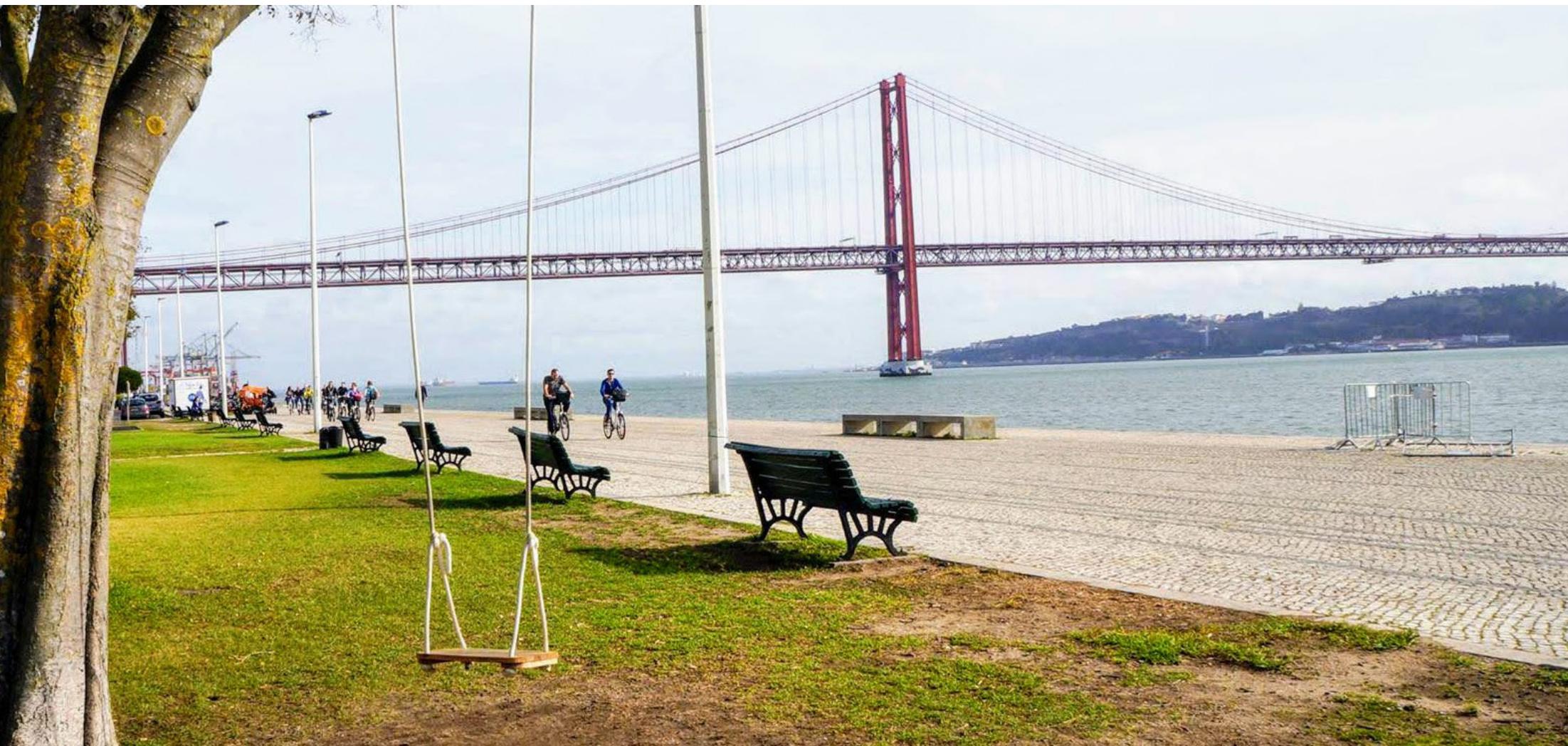


My buddy Cris and I arrived from Seville after a 4 hour drive for our weekend in Lisbon to find, for the first time of the trip, rain. We stayed at an airbnb in Bairro Alto, a lively neighborhood with loads of nightlife. It was Thanksgiving day for us (Americans) when we arrived so we headed out in the rain to have what was possibly the most adventurous meal I've had so far.

We ended up at Restaurante Vicente. This place had tapas, Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese food. The last item on their menu however, was "the chef's voyage". You don't know what you get, but when it comes out it is 7 rounds of tapas of the chef's choice. I ended up taking the voyage for my Thanksgiving abroad and had Iberian ham, ox tail croquettes, seared tuna, fois grois, octopus, and a ham, potatoes, and egg mix to finish it off.... and an ice cream-ish dessert. Cris got the risotto which was also incredible, while less adventurous.

That however was only the beginning. Portugal has amazing food and for a few other great meals head to Moules and Beer for some muscles or to Restaurante Arte de Mercado for an amazing traditional Portuguese sandwich.

Another one of my favorite things to explore in the cities I visit (when I have time) are modern art museums. I would highly recommend checking out Berardo Collection Museum in Lisbon. When I was there they had some great things to show, and admission is only 5 Euro. Well worth it if you ask me. The surrounding area also has a ton of things to see from a maritime museum to a natural history museum. Whatever type of art you are into, I am sure there is a place for you in that area. I'd also suggest a walk along the water back towards the city center to find some great (and odd) architecture and some good ocean side spots for a bite and a beer.



**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE
WHO MADE THIS POSSIBLE**

My Mum & Dad

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Silvan

Rachel

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Skyler

Fraz

Alex

Craig

Martina

MarcO & Hayley

Tracy

Fabrice

Elena

Abdel

Marina

Pete

Phil

Danijela

Swid

Cris & Michelle

Monika

Jay

Morgan

Andrea

Caroline & Nermin

Marie

Petra

Hunter & Laura

Ashley

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